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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/691,941

10/22/2003

Eric L. Solberg

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6302

51206

7590

04/07/2008

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW LLP  
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER  
8TH FLOOR  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

ANDERSON, JOHN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3696

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/07/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/691,941	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SOLBERG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> John A. Anderson	<b>Art Unit</b> 3696	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/22/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-7 , 12-17 are drawn to a transaction filtering system, for allocating transactions among a plurality of business objects, and a computing system for hierarchical transaction filtering, classified in class 709, subclass 201 and class 707, subclass 11 respectively.
  - II. Claims 8-11, drawn to a hierarchical data structure, classified in class 711, subclass 100.
  - III. Claims 18-22, drawn to an apparatus, a transaction allocation output, classified in class 341, subclass 75.
  - IV. Claims 23-30, drawn to a method of determining allocation of one or more transactions, classified in class 705, subclass 35.
  - V. Claims 31-37, drawn to a method of generating a transaction allocation output, classified in class 705, subclass 35.
  - VI. Claims 38-42, drawn to a system for determining allocation of a plurality of transactions among a plurality of business objects, classified in class 369, subclass 13.01.
  - VII. Claim 43, drawn to a system, a computer readable medium storing computer code for determining an allocation plan classified in class 770, subclass 658.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following

reasons: Inventions I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination.

The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I relates to an apparatus comprising a transaction filtering system for allocating transactions among a plurality of business objects, and a computing system for hierarchical transaction filtering. Invention II has a different utility and scope, an apparatus of a hierarchical data structure. Invention III has a different utility and scope, an apparatus consisting of a transaction allocation output. Invention IV has a different utility and scope, a method of determining allocation of one or more transactions. Invention V has a different utility and scope, a method of generating a transaction allocation output. Invention VI has a different utility and scope, a system for determining allocation of a plurality of transactions among a plurality of business objects. Invention VII has a different utility and scope, an apparatus of a computer readable medium storing computer code for determining an allocation plan.

Because these inventions are distinct and the search required for each invention is not required for the other, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

2. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

### ***Conclusion***

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Anderson whose telephone number is 571-270-3327. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 to 5:00 Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Tom Dixon can be reached on 571-272-6803. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

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system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John A Anderson/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3696

John A Anderson  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3696

/J. A. A./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3696 3/27/2008

/Daniel S Felten/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3696